



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | APRIL 2020

2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT



“I want to thank the Highland community, parents, teachers, administrators and all school employees as we navigate through these extraordinary times.”

Navigating these extraordinary times

I hope this finds you and your family healthy and well during this unexpected time together.

Let me begin by updating information we know today with regard to the impact the governor’s shelter-in-place directive will have on our 3,200 students at least through May 1.

We receive information directly from Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick every Tuesday, more often if necessary. In addition, superintendents around the state are connecting – working together to discuss best practices and additional options for learning.

The School Town is part of a working group with the civil town that has been conferencing twice daily to continue to tweak practices in this time of heightened health safety. These dedicated individuals are making navigating this crisis a little less daunting.

We began our e-learning curriculum on March 31 with classes in place for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We discovered five-day-a-week distance learning



Warren Elementary School Principal Christina Davis and Athletic Director Ryan Harrington load meals into a waiting car at the Hampton in Highland apartments. Dozens of employees are volunteering to help with the Monday distribution of meal kits to Highland students. Each kit has 10 meals – five breakfast and five lunch – and is available to any Highland student. Turn the page to learn more.

is too intense for students.

Parents, feel free to make Mondays and Fridays fun learning days. Making cookies where your child does all the measuring – or even doubles a recipe – is a great practical use of fractions. Pick out a new favorite book to read with your child. For older children, it’s a great opportunity to have a mini book club and discuss it as you go.

School events have been canceled.

We continue to work on options – especially for our seniors – who have missed out on so many of the fun activities we associate with that last semester of high school. Stay tuned to the May newsletter for more information.

Be safe and be well. We really are all in this together.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

TEST CANCELLATIONS

The Indiana Department of Education canceled spring testing, including IREAD-3, ILEARN, ISTEP+ and IAM. The WIDA screener and ISPROUT will continue to be available.

“Canceling state tests for the remainder of the school year was the only logical decision the state could make,” said Dr. Sherri Mitchell, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction & Student Services for the School Town of Highland. “State Superintendent McCormick has been a force in guiding the state through these challenging times.”

College entrance exam providers, such as the ACT and College Board, have rescheduled or canceled spring testing dates following CDC advising gatherings exceed no more than 10 people.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Swings and slides are going to have to wait: All School Town of Highland playground equipment is off-limits until further notice. It's the same for playground equipment at the town's public parks.

According to Governor Holcomb's directive for Hoosiers to stay at home, it has been determined that all public playgrounds may increase the spread of COVID-19 and shall be closed. Superintendent Brian Smith is requesting all residents to respect the caution tape.

SUMMER CONDITIONING

Online registration for summer conditioning begins May 1. Those who are new to the Family ID Sports Team registration process can access hello.familyid.com. Family ID requests information on emergency contacts and medical information.

For assistance, email Family ID at support@familyid.com or call (888) 800-5583, ext. 1. Support is available every day and has not been impacted by shelter-in-place orders.

FREE STUDENT MEALS

On news that school would be suspended for at least a month and likely longer, Food Services Director Lisa Hayes and her staff switched into high gear – preparing meal kits for students in need.

A first Monday distribution of 500 meal kits was followed by 1,200 the next. The drive-through program will continue as long as students remain out of class. Food items change weekly depending on availability.

“Response has been great from those getting meals as well as the community,” Hayes said. “We had one community member drop off gallons of milk we were able to distribute. We have also had community donations to help our department with food costs. We are truly humbled by the generosity.”

“We've also had an overwhelming response from teachers and staff, who are assisting in distributing meals,” Hayes said. “It is such an amazing display of community and it touches my heart that we are able to help our families and students.”

The only requirement to qualify for the program is the child is a Highland student.

Food Services is tapping money raised through the sale of ala carte items to fund the extended meal program.

“Our plan is to continue this every Monday until classes resume,” Hayes said. “We send a school messenger call out to families every week as a reminder.”

CENSUS REMINDER

There's never been a better time to fill out your family's census. The first U.S. Census Bureau mailing includes an invitation and personalized code to file online. With or without this code, residents can respond online by going to my2020census.gov.

Households that do not respond will receive a written questionnaire in mid-April. Self-response eliminates the need for an in-person visit by census personnel in May.